

Message Text

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P R 091115Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9742
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11491

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, FR
SUBJECT: SIXTEEN SECRETARIES OF STATE COMPLETE BARRE III

REFS: (A) PARIS 11291, (B) PARIS 11377

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER BARRE NAMED SIXTEEN SECRETARIES OF STATE APRIL 6, COMPLETING THE ROSTER OF HIS THIRD GOVERNMENT, SIX OF THE APPOINTEES ARE NEW IN CABINET LEVEL JOBS, WHILE 10 HAVE SERVED IN GOVERNMENT AT THAT LEVEL BEFORE (NINE IN BARRE II). PROFESSIONAL EFFICIENCY, REGIONAL BALANCE AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION SEEM TO HAVE BEEN THE MAIN CRITERIA. THERE WAS ONLY ONE BOW, AND A MINIMUM ONE AT THAT, THE OPPOSITION IN THE APPOINTMENT OF JACQUES PELLETIER - A LEFTIST SENATOR - TO EDUCATION. THE SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS CONTINUE BARRE'S EMPHASIS ON CONTINUITY, COHERENCE AND EFFECTIVE-
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NESS IN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. A CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVENESS: UPON LEAVING THE ELY-SEE AFTER THE NAMING OF THE SIXTEEN SECRETARIES OF STATE-PRIME MINISTER BARRE STATED THAT HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN IN THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS FOR EFFECTIVENESS; OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WERE REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

AND POLITICAL OPENING. THE REGIONAL CONSIDERATION WAS PRESENT, THE POLITICAL OPENING WAS NOT SO APPARENT. THE EMPHASIS ON EFFECTIVENESS WAS CLEARLY DOMINANT. NINE OF THE APPOINTEES WERE MEMBERS OF BARE II, OF WHICH SIX RETAINED THEIR OLD JOBS (DOMINATI, MONIQUE PELLE - TIER, BECAM, LEGENDRE, STOLERU, PASQUIER) AND THREE CHANGED POSITIONS (DIJOU, STIRN, CAVAILLE). EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD ESTABLISHED GOOD REPUTATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT FOR HARD WORK AND COMPETENCE.

2. OF THE SEVEN NEW SECRETARIES, FOUR HAVE CLEAR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR ASSIGNMENTS, WHILE THREE APPEAR TO BE MORE POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS. RPR JACQUES LIMOUZY (PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS) RETURNS TO THE SAME JOB HE HELD UNDER JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS (NOW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) FROM 1969 TO 1972. PIERRE AIGRAIN (RESEARCH) IS A SCIENCE PROFESSOR WITH ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. JEAN-PIERRE PROUTEAU (SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY) HAS BEEN THE LEADER OF ONE OF THE FOUR LARGEST AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HAS HAD EXTENSIVE DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. JACQUES FOUCHIER (AGRICULTURE) HAS, FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, PRESIDED OVER THE COMMISSION ON PRODUCTION AND TRADE (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) WHICH HE HAS TRIED TO MAKE "A LABORATORY OF ECONOMIC IDEAS." THE APPOINTMENT OF SENATOR JACQUES PELLETIER TO EDUCATION REPRESENTS THE

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GOVERNMENT'S ONLY TENTATIVE OPENING TO THE LEFT. A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT IN THE SENATE, HE BRIDGES THE MAJORITY-OPPOSITION POLITICAL POSITIONS, AND HAD ALONG WITH OTHERS ATTEMPTED TO DEVELOP A NON-COMMON PROGRAM CENTER-LEFT OPPOSITION. SINCE THE VAST MAJORITY OF EDUCATORS IN FRANCE VOTED FOR THE SOCIALISTS, HIS APPOINTMENT MARKS AT LEAST A LIMITED OPENING TO THE AND THEIR UNION. CENTER-RIGHT SENATOR DANIEL HOEFFEL (HEALTH) IS FROM ALSACE AND REPRESENTS A REGIONAL CHOICE. FRANCOIS DELMAS (ENVIRONMENT) WON A HARD-FOUGHT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SOCIALIST MAYOR OF MONTPELLIER FOR THE DEPTUY SEAT, AND HIS APPOINTMENT IS A JUST REWARD AS WELL AS A REGIONAL CHOICE. FULL BIO DATA ON NEW SECRETARIES FOLLOW SEPTELS.

3. GENERAL COMMENTS:

-- THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE NEW APPOINTEES IS CLEARLY GISCARDIAN. NINE ARE UDF, TWO ARE SENATORS (ONE CENTER-RIGHT, ONE CENTER-LEFT), ONE IS A RADICAL SOCIALIST, ONE IS NON-POLITICAL (AIGRAIN) AND THREE ARE RPR. OF THE THREE RPR, HOWEVER, TWO WERE IN THE PRIOR BARRE GOVERNMENT (BECAM AND LEGENDRE) AND THE OTHER

(LIMOUZY) WORKED FOR CHABAN-DELMAS.

-- THE TEAM AT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND PARTICI-

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PATION, ON WHICH BARRE HAS PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS, WAS MAINTAINED IN SPITE OF STOLERU'S ELECTORAL DEFEAT. LEGENDRE, LIKE BECAM WHO STAYS AT INTERIOR, IS A DEDICATED AND EFFECTIVE YOUNG RPR DEPUTY WHOM BARRE BROUGHT INTO GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR AFTER THE CONQUERED SOCIALIST TOWNS IN THS MUNICIPALS.

-- IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, GISCARD RESTATED THE THEMES OF HIS PROGRAM: ECONOMIC RECOVERY, INCREASING SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND INCREASING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIBERTIES OF FRENCH CITIZENS. BARRE III LIKE BARRE II, IS INTERNALLY COHERENT, PROFESSIONALLY COMPETENT AND REFLECTS GISCARD'S LIBERAL APPROACH. GISCARD STATED THAT HE WANTS TO MAKE THE NEXT THREE YEARS A PERIOD OF INTENSE PROGRESS. BARRE HAS CONSTRUCTED A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY TO WORK TOGETHER IN ACHIEVING THAT GOAL.

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-- LIKE THE ORIGINAL LIST OF MINISTERS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTMENTS ARE BASIC BARRE. THE APPOINTMENTS REFLECT BARRE'S CONCERN FOR AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT TEAM, ALONG WITH MEETING REGIONAL AND POLITICAL NEEDS. WHILE OTHER SECRETARIES MAY BE NAMED (CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR EXAMPLE), THE FIRST FULL LIST IS NOW COMPLETE AND THE NATURE OF THE GOVERNMENT IS KNOWN. THE NOMINATIONS CLEARLY POINT UP GISCARD'S INTENT TO USE PROGRAMS, NOT PERSONALITIES, TO RESPOND TO VOTER DEMANDS FOR REFORM AND AN OPENING TO THE MODERATE LEFT.

-- GISCARD ALSO STATED THAT THIS OPENING WOULD REQUIRE A PATIENT AND PROGRESSIVE EFFORT. ALREADY HE HAS SEEN THE UDF ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN OPPOSITION PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES FAIL DUE TO RPR AND PS/PCF DIFFERENCES ON THE NUMBER. THE PS DAILY LA LETTRE DE L'UNITE SUBSEQUENTLY AND PREDICTABLY CRITICIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR LACKING THE MEANS FOR MOVEMENT TOWARDS CHANGE BOTH IN PERSONNEL AND IN BUDGETARY PROJECTIONS. THE PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, TO BE PRESENTED APRIL 19, WILL BE THE NEXT TEST OF HOW FAR AND HOW FAST GISCARD AND BARRE INTEND TO GO.
HARTMAN

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